the holy awe of the Universal Beautiful and the Universal
Charming One in that flower. He instantly took off his
hat and, adored God in it exclaiming ' This is holy ground/
The rose was not the object of his obeisance. As soon as he
witnessed it, his spiritual eye was quickened. He saw God's
radiance in it. He was overpowered and enraptured.

DebendranathTagore, the princely Maharishi of Bengal,
the father of the renownedpoet and philosopher Dr. Rabindra-
nath Tagore, as already stated in .Chapter IV, *supra,* when
not yet eighteen, vividly realised God at the bed-side of his
dying grand-mother on the river-bank at a cremation gnat.
According to a pious custom, this lady, whose recovery from
illness had been given up, was carried to the river-bank to die.
There she survived three nights, while priests were chanting
holy hymns and *sankirthamsts* were singing in a chorus
' Would that I expired with the name of *Hari* on my
lips/ It was a full-moon night and a gentle breeze was
blowing ; when the above song entered the ear of young
Debendranath, a strange sense of the unreality of all things
flashed across his mind. A strong dislike of wealth arose.

He was blessed with the direct vision of God's Holy Presence.
He saw Him, the God of Glory, unfolding Himself in his heart
in all His love, beauty and holiness and proclaimed to the
world His mercy as follow^:—

{< The God of Glory suddenly revealed Himself in my soul and so entirely charmed me and sweetened my heart that, for a time, ^ continued ravished—quite immersed in a flood of divine light. The world outside and the world within both seemed bathed in a sweet and serene stream of celestial effulgence. What was it but the light of truth, the water of baptism, the message of salvation ? What was it that so charmed me ? The Loving Presence of the Living God, who could doubt ? I &aw it, I felt it; like a live coal, it quickened me. Xt was an unmistaken revelation of God's mercy; I rfiad it plain as golden letters in midday light. I clearly recognised His fingers in this saving dispensation. It WAS none, other than my God, the Supreme Father and Mother, the Friend of the sinners, the Protector of the helpless, destitute and cast away, who vouchsafed in His infinit e